



District 4: Office of Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak April 2011

Serving Beechview, Brookline, Bon Air, Carrick, Mt. Washington and Overbrook.

This is a monthly newsletter sent by Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak to constituents and others who are interested in District 4 Neighborhoods. Together, we can make our neighborhoods better places to live, work, and play. Staying informed is part of that process! Please forward this newsletter to your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to subscribe.

Have a question that you'd like to see addressed in an upcoming newsletter? Contact our new Constituent Services Manager, Ashleigh Deemer: ashleigh.deemer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2131

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District 4 News

Big Carrick Clean-Up was a HUGE success!

Unfortunately, the woodlands and ravines of Carrick are home to the most illegal dump sites in the city. On Saturday, April 9th, Councilman Bruce Kraus and Councilwoman Rudiak worked together, and welcomed dozens of volunteers to the corner of Sprucewood and Alplaus St., above Becks Run Road, in Carrick. From the street, the area is lush with trees and other greenery- a beautiful little spot! But the ravine, only yards away, was filled with 50 years or more of illegally-

dumped trash. Volunteers descended into the ravine and hauled out everything from simple garbage, like cans and bottles, to tires, shopping carts, and construction waste. Toilets, bb guns and bicycles were among the strangest finds. All told, the group pulled out over 7 tons of trash, including 140 tires from the areas around East Cherryhill, Sprucewood, and Alries Street! Recyclable items were separated out, and the gigantic piles were picked up by our gracious friends at Division 4 Public Works.

Remember: DUMPING IS ILLEGAL. If you see an individual or business dumping trash in your neighborhood, **call 911**. If possible, write down the license plate number and any markings on the vehicle, like a business name. Have a camera? Take a picture! By watching out for and reporting illegal dumping as its happening, we can enforce the law and keep our neighborhoods clean.

Dumping tires is especially problematic, as they collect rainwater and create an ideal environment for mosquitoes, which are known to carry West Nile Virus. They also pose a serious threat of fire. Please be sure to check out the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Waste Tire Program, here:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=589696&mode=2>

****DON'T KNOW HOW TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN ITEMS?***

Recycle tires, scrap metal and much more for FREE at a number of City drop-off sites. Please pass this info on to your neighbors!

http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/pw/html/drop-off_information.html

BZZZZ! Burgh Bees coming to Brookline + Beechview

Spring is in the air, and this year, Brookline residents may see more flowers than last! Bees play a critical role in food and flower pollination, but according to Steve Repasky of the Pittsburgh group, Burgh Bees, the honeybee population has decreased 30-50% per year for the last 5 years. That all may change in South Pittsburgh this year, as Repasky & Burgh Bees are working to install apiaries (a fancy word for a grouping of beehives) in two of our District 4 neighborhoods- Brookline and Beechview! In Brookline, Repasky is collaborating with Bob Beiler at the SPDC to bee-deck the green space at Jacob and Whited Streets. The project came together through a series of introductions. After hearing a presentation from Repasky, and working on the urban agriculture legislation in City Council, Councilwoman Rudiak introduced Repasky to Nathan Mallory, owner of Cannon Coffee, who introduced Repasky to Beiler at the SPDC. In Beechview, Repasky is working with Phyllis DiDiano to get bees buzzing at a vacant lot on Fallowfield. Thanks to them, Brookline and Beechview residents may see more bountiful gardens this summer! We think that's even sweeter than honey.

Check out the article about the Brookline apiary in the Dormont-Brookline Patch: <http://dormont-brookline.patch.com/articles/brookline-buzzing-with-proposed-apiary#photo-5622849>

Free Movie Night! Watch *New Metropolis* with us!

On May 4 at 6:00 PM, we are working with the Hollywood Theater in Dormont to reopen its doors for a screening of the PBS Documentary, *New Metropolis*. Released in 2009, *New Metropolis* examines the current state of America's "first" suburbs, communities like ours, that

were built following the Second World War. Presented in two thirty minute halves, the documentary explores the challenges that our older suburbs now face, like population and business loss, decaying infrastructure, racial tensions, etc., and points toward solutions for their revitalization. Councilwoman Rudiak and other community leaders are organizing this event, and look forward to seeing ALL city and borough neighbors interested in thoughtful discussion and practical solutions on addressing the most important issues in our community. We would like an idea of how many folks to expect, so if you are interested in enjoying this FREE film, please RSVP to Ashleigh Deemer at ashleigh.deemer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2131 by COB on Monday, May 2, 2011.

We are also working with our neighbors to the south from Baldwin to Castle Shannon; this will be a great opportunity for us to start getting to know each other to solve the problems that face us all.

The Hollywood Theater will be open on a part-time basis in May, with a busier screening schedule planned for June. Although the theater has had troubles keeping the doors open in the past, the non-profit, Friends of the Hollywood Theater, hope to do more than show movies. Their plans include serving as a community center for film festivals, concerts and special events, such as screenings of sports games and awards shows.

Pittsburgh's Bits & Bites Adds Brookline as a Neighborhood Food Tour

Since last month's featured story about Brookline in the online magazine, Pop City, the neighborhood's status as a destination has gone even a step further! 'Burgh Bits & Bites has added Brookline to its list of taste-as-you-go local food tours.

"Learn how pita bread is made, enjoy Philly-style soft pretzels, visit one of Pittsburgh's oldest bakeries and taste authentic Greek specialties," invites the website of the company, run by Sylvia McCoy.

The two-hour tours for up to 10 people per guide leave at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays, and larger group and private tours can be arranged.

Tickets are \$35 via burghfoodtour.com or call 1-800-979-3370. Or...you know, for you lucky residents who already live here...you can just walk down the street and check it out for yourself!

Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11083/1134109-34.stm#ixzz1Jc7kJw4C>

Volunteer as a School Tender for WPA Conservancy's School Grounds Greening Project

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's School Grounds Greening Project is reconnecting students and school communities to nature by enhancing the grounds of all Pittsburgh Public Schools with greenery and outdoor spaces. In District 4, this program has established an organic garden at Carrick High School!

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy needs your help maintaining these green spaces! You can be a part of this exceptional program by volunteering to become a School Tender. No

horticultural experience is necessary. Tasks include regular watering and weeding. Becoming a School Tender is an easy way to gain volunteer hours, help increase a neighborhood's property value, improve air quality, conserve the school's energy, and sustain a learning environment that spurs creativity!

WPC needs School Tenders for the 2011 spring and summer seasons at many schools in and surrounding Carrick. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact:

David Wilson
School Grounds Greening Project Coordinator
[412-586-2416](tel:412-586-2416)
dwilson@paconserve.org

Check out the full story on the Carrick High School Organic Garden here:
<http://php.pghboe.net/news/index.php/2010/12/20/dozens-of-student-volunteers-help-green-up-pittsburgh-carrick-high-school/>

It's Your Government

The More You Know: All About Public Hearings!

City Council holds public hearings on a wide variety of topics, to learn more about the issues they consider, and make informed decisions. As a resident of Pittsburgh you can attend public hearings to voice your comments on the issue at hand, or you can watch them on City Channel Pittsburgh (Comcast Channel 13 or Verizon FiOS Channel 44- see your cable provider for listings). If you choose to comment at a public hearing, you will have up to three minutes to speak, and the comments are then entered into the public record. Usually, public hearings are scheduled during daytime office hours, and usually last about an hour. However, hearings on really hot or contentious issues can go on for *several* hours! You can learn more here:
<http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/council/index.html>.

You can also *request* a public hearing. The request must be accompanied by a petition signed by at least 25 registered voters. For details, click the link:
http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/city_clerk%5Chtml%5Cpublic_hearings_procedures.html.

Have Questions about Your City Government?

Send us a web form, and we'll pick one question to answer per Newsletter!
Web form: http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district4/html/district_4_feedback.html

Community Resources / Coming Up!

FYI- Events are listed in order of date, soonest to farthest away. All the easier for writing them into your calendar!

If you have questions about any of these events, feel free to give our office a call: 412-255-2131

Zone 3 Public Safety Meeting

If you weren't able to attend the March meeting, please join us in April! Hear from Community Relations Officer Christine Luffey, and voice concerns you have in your neighborhood. Last month, we learned a lot about how the police build criminal cases, and the court system. Pittsburgh Police Zone 3 consists of Carrick, Overbrook, Bon Air, Mt. Washington, as well as the South Side Flats and Hilltop neighborhoods.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00-7:30 PM at the SCAA in Arlington (2400 Elsie St.)

Beechview TRID Public Meetings

“TRID”= Transportation Revitalization Investment District, and this one is all about Beechview! Learn about the developing plan to revitalize Broadway Avenue and take better advantage of the T. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more and voice your opinions! Residents of Beechview know better than anybody what can be improved upon.

There are two meetings- one for the South Hills Junction T stop on E. Warrington Avenue, and the other for Broadway Avenue in Beechview.

South Hills Junction Meeting: TONIGHT, Tuesday, April 19th, 6-8 PM at Warrington Rec
Beechview Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th, 6-8 M at St. Catherine's in Beechview

Click the link for a preview of the TRID study and in-process plan:

<http://interface-studio.com/currently/pittsburgh-smart-trid/>

Tree Tending in Carrick

Weed and mulch the trees to help them get established and develop strong, healthy root systems. All are welcome!

Saturday, April 23rd, 10 AM to 12 PM on Brownsville Rd.

For more information, and to RSVP, contact: sallyjoe@treepittsburgh.org

Be sure to check out Tree Pittsburgh's website for additional activities:

<http://www.treepittsburgh.org>

Brookline Area Community Council

Monday, April 25th, 7:30-9:40 @ St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church (933 Brookline Blvd.)
<http://www.brooklineconnection.com/history/Orgs/CCouncil.html>

Overbrook Community Council

Tuesday, April 26 7:00-9:00 @ the Accamando Center (Overbrook Firehouse on Rt. 51)
<http://groups.google.com/group/occ-pittsburgh-pa>, occ-pittsburgh-pa@googlegroups.com

OPENSOURCEPGH Meetings

Come and give your input to the development of the City's comprehensive plan for open and green spaces in your neighborhood! These meetings are for YOU, and we need to all work together to make South Pittsburgh's priorities the City's priorities. This comprehensive plan is basically Pittsburgh's 25-year game plan, and we need your voice to talk about what South Pittsburgh needs and wants. We can't do it without you. There are two public meetings coming up:

- Wednesday, April 27th, 6-8 PM @ the Mt. Washington Senior Center
- Tuesday, May 3rd, 6-8 PM @ the Seton Center in Brookline

More information: <http://planpgh.com/>

Movie Night- *New Metropolis* at the Hollywood Theater!

Wednesday, May 4 @ 6 PM at the Hollywood Theater in Dormont

Join us and meet your neighbors from across District 4 and the South Hills. Everyone is invited! Please RSVP to Ashleigh Deemer at ashleigh.deemer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2131 by COB on Monday, May 2, 2011.

Beechview Area Concerned Citizens + Beechview Blockwatch

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 PM @ the Beechview United Presbyterian Church hall (1621 Broadway Avenue)

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Beechview/home>

<http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=420>

NEW! Community Leaders United for Beechview has a NEW website:

<http://www.beechview.org>

Brookline Block Watch

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00-9:00 PM @ Judge Jim Motznik's office (736 Brookline Blvd)

<http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=423>

Carrick Community Council

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 PM @ Concord Elementary School auditorium (2350 Brownsville Rd)

<http://www.carrickpa.com/>, carrickpa@googlegroups.com

Safe Areas for Everyone (SAFE) Resource Fair

PCRG has partnered with CTAC and the Mayor's Office to host a citywide public safety training and resource fair on Saturday, May 21st at West Penn Hospital. The event is completely FREE to city residents and will feature workshops on gang identification and prevention/mediation, starting and sustaining a block watch, and understanding and using crime statistics. Chief Harper and US Attorney David J. Hickton will be featured speakers. A panel of public safety officials for

311, 911, Housing Authority, and the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI), called “*Who You Gonna Call and When?*” will be moderated by Councilwoman Smith, as public safety chair.

Saturday, May 21st @ West Penn Hospital (4800 Friendship Avenue in Friendship /Bloomfield)
<http://www.alleghenycleanways.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=84>

To subscribe or unsubscribe from Councilwoman Rudiak’s District 4 updates, please notify Nicole Kubiczki at nicole.kubiczki@city.pittsburgh.pa.us and we will add or remove you or your organization from our newsletter distribution list. To view back issues, please visit: http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district4/html/district_4_newsletters.html.